

Serial No.: 10/076,213
Filing Date: February 12, 2002

Please add the following new claims 9-25 as follows:

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- 9. (New) A process for minimizing thermal aggregation of DNase in a liquid solution comprising introducing a DNase aggregation-inhibiting amount of sugar to a solution comprising DNase, and elevating the temperature of said DNase solution above 37°C temperature.
10. (New) A process according to claim 9, wherein the temperature of said solution is elevated above about 60°C.
11. (New) A process according to claim 9, further comprising reducing the pH of said solution below pH 7.0.
12. (New) A process according to claim 11, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.5.
13. (New) A process according to claim 11, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.
14. (New) A process according to claim 11, wherein said solution is at about pH 5.
15. (New) A process according to claim 9, wherein said sugar is present in an amount from 50 mg/ml to 200 mg/ml.

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16. (New) A process according to claim 9, wherein said sugar is α -lactose monohydrate, mannitol, trehalose or sucrose.

A 17. (New) The process according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of spray-drying said liquid solution and collecting the spray-dried product as a respirable DNase-containing powder that is therapeutically effective when administered into the lung of an individual.

18. (New) A DNase solution comprising DNase and a DNase aggregation-inhibiting amount of sugar wherein said DNase solution is minimally aggregated when said solution is at a temperature greater than 37°C.

19. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 18, wherein the temperature is greater than about 60°C.

20. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 18, wherein said solution is further kept at a pH below 7.0.

21. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 20, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.5.

22. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 20, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.

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23. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 18, wherein said sugar is present in an amount from 50 mg/ml to 200 mg/ml.
24. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 18, wherein said sugar is α -lactose monohydrate, mannitol, trehalose or sucrose.
25. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 18 that is further spray-dried to a respirable DNase-containing powder that is therapeutically effective when administered into the lung of an individual.--
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REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer and have add new claims 9-25. Claims 9-25 do not include new matter. A version with markings to show changes made and a clean copy of pending claims are attached.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for immediate allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner pass this application to issue, and an early notice of such is requested.

No fees are believed due. However, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees, including any extension fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1300 (Our Order No. A-60010-1/RFT/DLR).